



Town of Wilson Newsletter

May autumn surround you and yours with happiness, love and the beauty of the season.



Inside this issue

- Page 1 Chairman Chat
- Page 3 Park and Forestry
- Page 4 Fire Department
- Page 5 Maintenance Dept
- Page 6 Sanitary Score
- Page 6 Treasurers Treehouse
- Page 7 Clerk's Corner

Update from the Town Chairman

Hello friends and neighbors. It certainly has been a summer like no other in my lifetime. One that has challenged us at every turn. From climate change to social unrest to a divisive political landscape and the pandemic, we have all been affected. My hope is that we as neighbors continue to persevere by practicing empathy and reaching out to one another to build bridges and not walls.

As your town representatives, we continue to strive to provide you with essential government services during these challenging times at the highest level and in a safe and effective manner. There is a lot tell you so let me get started.

Coronavirus Emergency Response Plan –

We continue to operate within the emergency response plan adopted by the town board in March to ensure the safety of our residents and staff. The office is still closed to the public and available in certain instances by appointment only. We ask that you conduct your town business remotely by email or phone or by using the town office drop box.

Town board and sanitary district meetings continue to be held remotely using Zoom. Plan commission meetings are now being held in-person at the larger town hall and require attendees to social distance and wear masks. Other nonessential meetings have resumed and may be held via Zoom or at the town hall with the same safety restrictions.

Nov. 3rd General Election –

Please access the town website at <https://townwilson.com/> for detailed voting information, much of which is also available on the clerk's page in this newsletter. You have several options including in-person early voting, by absentee ballot, or the old-fashioned way on election day. Early voting will take place October 20-22 and 26-29 from 9:00-3:00 at the Town Hall. No appointment necessary.

Absentee ballots can be requested online or by emailing the town clerk. They can be returned by mail or placed in the town office drop box. I also want to address any concerns that the absentee voting process is not safe or secure. There are checks and balances built into the process that WILL NOT allow anyone to vote twice. And all registered voters, whether you vote in person or by requesting an absentee ballot, must provide a valid voter ID.



High Water Levels – Lake Michigan levels continue to be at or near record highs. Water levels generally follow a seasonal cycle, rising in the spring due to increased precipitation and snowmelt, and declining in the fall due to increased evaporation.

Town staff continue to monitor the mouth of the Black River which occasionally becomes blocked from predominantly lake Michigan northeasterly storm surges, resulting in a rapid rise in the river and flooding. In such instances our only remedy is to manually shovel a path through the blockage and then let the forces of the river expand the opening. Bringing in heavy equipment to dredge the mouth as some have requested is not a practical option according to the DNR and engineers with expertise in coastal management, as the costs would be exorbitant and the impact may last only days due to the forces of the lake and river.

Further inland, water tables also remain high and can present drainage and flooding problems. We are committed to assist individual property owners in any way that we can, including utilizing our town engineer for consulting, deploying the fire department for pumping water and working directly with city officials to coordinate response efforts. If you are experiencing any water issues do not hesitate to call the town office.

Ordinance Enforcement –

As many of you are aware, the town board at its July 20 meeting amended its Chapter 6 Constable Jurisdiction ordinance to remove all powers from the elected town constables. Subsequently, at the town's Annual Meeting held on August 4, the town electorate voted to abolish the office of the elected town constable altogether, which will take effect in April 2021. The town board is currently working through the process of creating an ordinance enforcement position that would have similar responsibilities as the constables. In the meantime, the town fire chief and town supervisors have the authority to handle ordinance enforcement matters and issue citations. If

you have an enforcement issue to report, please contact the town office and they will contact a town official to follow up with you. We are confident these changes will result in more consistent and higher quality service to our town residents.

Ordinance Compliance –

I thought it might be helpful to share a few common do's and don'ts regarding our town ordinances so that everyone is aware of the rules.

Pets are not to run loose off your property and must always be under your control. Waste must not be left anywhere off your property.

On-premises temporary signs (including political signs) in residential areas may not exceed 16 square feet.

Building permits are required for the construction, placement, alteration or repair of any structure, including primary dwellings, garages (attached or detached), any detached structure supported by columns or walls used to house animals, equipment, or other materials, including tented structures; and swimming pools or decks. Building permit applications can be downloaded at <https://townwilson.com/permitsforms/>

All roads contain a certain amount of public right-of-way along their sides. It is prohibited to dump materials, alter or obstruct a road right-of-way in any manner that may impede the flow of drainage water, obstruct visibility of roadway users, increase the risk of injury to roadway users, or interfere with road maintenance operations. This includes the dumping of snow, rocks, landscape timbers, basement drain tile pipes, private drainage systems and other decorative landscaping fences; garbage, rubbish, refuse or other discarded materials; trees, shrubs, bushes and other decorative plantings that extend above the natural or established grade by more than six (6) inches; and stakes or snow fence posts.

It is illegal to discharge sump pumps into sewer drains.

Fireworks are not allowed in the town and fines are hefty. Don't be surprised if this is more consistently enforced in the future.

Kohler Golf Course Update –

The future of the proposed Kohler golf course remains in the hands of a Sheboygan Circuit Court Judge. In March 2019, in response to a lawsuit filed by a local citizen group, a Wisconsin Administrative Law Judge revoked Kohler's wetland fill permit for the project. The ALJ cited that the standards for issuing the permit back in April 2017 had not been met and the DNR lacked sufficient information to grant the permit. Kohler's appeal of the ALJ decision is now before the Sheboygan County Circuit Court.

2020 Road Improvements –

A brief status report on our scheduled 2020 road projects is outlined below. We will begin working on next year's road maintenance plan in the coming weeks as we dive into the 2021 budget process.

Garden Grove Drive & Woodside Lane – Repaving and drainage upgrades completed.

Juniper Drive – Repaving project rescheduled to 2021 to coincide with receipt of grant monies.

Ourtown Road – Chip seal treatment completed.

Terry Andrae Avenue, Terrace and Court – Chip seal treatment completed.

Timberlake Road – Drainage improvement to be completed this fall; the repaving project is rescheduled to 2021 to coincide with the County's availability to do the work.

Black River neighborhood – Various chip seal repairs, road patching, and line painting completed.

Stone Brook Subdivision Project –

A residential subdivision is underway just north of the Rammer Pond subdivision between County Highway OK and Moenning Road. The development located entirely within the City of Sheboygan and is planned to house 155 single family units on 131 lots. The woodland on the southeast corner of the development will remain intact and a public park will be added. The project will move forward in phases and take several years to complete.

If you have any questions or feedback or would like to discuss any issue in more depth, please do not hesitate to call me at 920-254-9362. Please stay safe, stay positive, and reach out to those in need.

John Ehmann, Chairman
Town of Wilson

"Everyone you meet is fighting a battle you know nothing about. Be kind. Always." – Robin Williams



Park and Forestry Commission

New Faces -

The Park and Forestry Commission has had a vacant commissioner position for a very long time.

It is with much pleasure that we announce Deborah Lisberg has been approved by the Town of Wilson Supervisors for the open seat. Welcome Deborah!

Covid Curtail -

As you can probably imagine, the covid - 19 pandemic has put meetings for the Park and Forestry Commission on hold until the moment we can all come together again.

Even though we have been unable to meet formally, commissioners have volunteered their time to "socially distance and socialize" while weeding the flower gardens in Schinker Creek Park, and plant more milkweed in the hopes that our park will be the perfect waystation for monarch butterflies as they pass through our area.

A Good Sign -

Leaves are turning colors, the temperature is dropping and the promise of another season is upon us. What a good sign!

Glorious fall; the winter birds return, chili cooks on the stove, steaming cider in our cups. The hope of family gatherings and winter wonderlands in our sights.

The Park and Forestry Commission has its own good sign to draw attention to.

A new sign has been installed near the south property line of Victor Gruber Memorial Fireman's Park and Jung Bell Tower Park.

Designed to match the other park and conservancy signs of the Town of Wilson, the new Victor Gruber Memorial Fireman's Park and Jung Bell Tower Park sign is definitely a must see on your autumn agenda.

The East and West of our grant funding -

The Mueller Family Conservancy area Japanese Barberry removal has continued for more than a year now.

Our grant money is covering a slow but environmentally responsible method of removal for a species that is invasive and very uncomfortable to brush up against to say the least.

Barberry has sharp barbs that can puncture skin in an instant and hurt for much longer.

At the Mueller Family Conservancy the West half has responded successfully to chemical treatment and mulching, while the East half of land has finally dried up enough to schedule the continuation of abatement.

We are in it for the long haul, and look forward to continued progress!

Oh, I've been smiling lately dreaming about the world as one. And I believe it could be, Someday it's going to come. - Cat Stevens

Town of Wilson Fire Department

Goals Achieved -

The Town of Wilson Fire Department is filled with many dedicated and hardworking people. As a result of our stamina and tenaciousness we have achieved some pretty momentous goals in the last year.

We upgraded our Rescue Engine which was a very large project. Thanks to the hard work of our firefighters who did much of the work themselves, and the purchase of used apparatus, we saved the Town of Wilson approximately \$225,000.

We also had a goal of replacing an apparatus bay door which we saw come to fruition. A larger, and very handsome new door is available to see at the Fire Station.



Safety reminders as we welcome the new season -

Inspect fireplace chimneys to assure they are cleaned and free of debris.

Change the batteries in all smoke and CO2 detectors.

If you have a high efficiency gas furnace, keep the venting pipe free from snow. Harmful gasses can build up inside your home. Shovel them out!

Examine cords on decorative lighting to be sure everything is in safe working condition before installing.

New Goals Set -

The Town of Wilson Fire Department has set a new goal of building a training tower.

Training towers are used for honing the skills of our firefighters in roof work, and laddering exercises.

Experience is the best teacher and what better way is there to learn than to practice a whole lot, when your in a controlled environment.

Ladder work and roof operations are an extremely important part of a firefighter's skill set because the material a roof is constructed of, style of construction, access and egress all effect the way a fire is approached and training can be crucial.

Ventilation of chemicals produced in a fire can also be the difference between life and death for any remaining victims trapped inside and also influences the environment the Firefighters are accessing to save victims and structures. Our goal is to create the safest environment possible in a very dangerous situation.

If you would be interested in donating to the Town of Wilson Training Tower Project, please contact Chief Todd Hittmann 920-458-6763 or contact the Town of Wilson Office at 920-208-2390.

Looking for a worthy cause to make a donation to?

*The Town of Wilson First Responders and Town of Wilson Fire Department are your local
FRONT LINE WORKERS.*

Any donations support these volunteer organizations that support us in our time of need.

Maintenance Department

The right way in the right of way -

Many homes in the Town of Wilson have drainage culverts and ditches in their yard. As appealing as it may be to make changes to these areas, it is technically owned by the town. It is called the right of way. Let's look at some definitions to get familiar with the terms.

Right of Way is essentially a plot of land, 66 feet wide used for the road and the shoulder. The end of the right of way is a specific distance from the center of the street. An easy way to visualize this is to remember that the first fifteen to twenty feet (*give or take depending on the width of your street*) from any road is in the right of way.

Here is the technical definition:

"Right-of-way" means the full extent of lands acquired for road purposes, whether by deed, easement, statute, patent, court order, or prescriptive use.

Drainage Ditches and Culverts are used to divert water run-off in the direction of a master drainage plan developed by engineers. The ditch is a place of lower elevation and the culvert is the pipe that runs under a driveway. Some places have both, others may have just ditches or just culverts, but their goals are the same.

Drainage ditches and culverts give excess ground and stormwater a route to travel, limiting the areas of standing water in heavy rainy seasons or when the ground water level is high like we have seen here in Sheboygan County over the past few years.

Even the best laid drainage plan will occasionally be overwhelmed by mother nature, but the drainage does eventually catch up.

More importantly, ditches protect your home from having water spill or leak into your basement. This year was particularly wet and some of you had basement flooding, including this author. Not fun, but it would have been worse without our culvert and ditch.

Every property has a right of way even if it doesn't have a drainage ditch or culvert.

The Town of Wilson has ordinances limiting changes that can be made to the right of way and can be found in Chapter 54 of the ordinances available on our website. The bottom line: The only things allowed in the Right of Way is a culvert and a mailbox.

Trees and shrubs are classified as **"obstructions"** and are not allowed in the right of way.

Here is a snippet of the ordinance:

"Obstruction" means all materials placed within a right-of-way that may impede the flow of drainage water, obstruct visibility of roadway users, increase the risk of injury to roadway user who collides with the materials, or interfere with road maintenance operations, including the ability of employees or agents to access or occupy any portion of the right-of-way. As illustrations, obstructions include snow, stones or rocks, railroad ties, landscape timbers, basement drain tile pipes, private drainage systems and other decorative landscaping fences; garbage, rubbish, refuse or other discarded materials; all agricultural crops regardless of height; trees, shrubs, bushes and other decorative plantings that extend above the natural or established grade by more than six (6) inches; and delineator posts including metal stakes, wood stakes or snow fence posts.

The reason for this is obstructions do just that. They obstruct the flow of water, but also limit the visibility for traffic on the roads. If you plan to do some landscaping please consult the full ordinance and follow the rules. The repercussions of ignoring them can result in an order to remove, fines and a whole lot of your hard work that gets undone!

Plowing and pickup personnel - The Town of Wilson contracts Wagner and Sheboygan County to plow the roads in the Town. If you have any issues with plowing your fastest course of action is to call the people responsible for your road. Wagner Excavating plows roads East of I-43, and North of CTH- V. Sheboygan County plows West of I-43, and South of V. If you need assistance determining who is responsible for plowing your road, the Town of Wilson Office can help. Please remember, shoveling snow or snow blowing into the roadway is an ordinance violation.

To report an animal that has been hit and requires cleanup, please call the Sheboygan County Sheriff's Department Non-Emergency line at 920-459-3111.

If you have private garbage collection, please remove your garbage bins from the edge of the road when they are empty. It is safer for walkers, bicyclers, snow plow drivers and delivery personnel to keep the road's edge clear. Thank you!



September Skies. Funny how that memory never dies. And when that first leaf falls days turn cold, nights grow long, just like an old Sinatra song - Brian Setzer

The Sanitary Score

The long and winding road -

The private road.

A place where the only traffic is a handful (or less) of residents. Where the mailboxes stand proudly at the very end of a journey as they intersect with the rest of the world.

Imagine a crisp fall morning, walking through the gentle curves. The only sounds you hear are the snap of gravel and acorns under your feet as a leaf gently kisses the ground and a squirrel rustles high in the branches. The serenity of a private road is exclusive to just a few in the Town of Wilson. Homes on private roads sit majestically back in the woods far from the main road and hook up a little differently to our sewer system. Along with these peaceful perks comes added responsibility.



Every home in the sewer district eventually hooks up to a main line in the system, but private roads have an additional component called a private interceptor.

The private interceptor stretches from the street to each home's lateral. It's the go-between of the sanitary main line and the lateral pipe serving a home.

Homeowners own their lateral pipe just like they own the drain lines in their home, therefore they are responsible for the repair and maintenance of the home's lateral.

Ownership of a private interceptor works the same way; it is the responsibility of the homeowner. If it is a shared private interceptor, then the responsibility would lie with those who share it.

Some of these homes are quite far from the main lines that run in the right of way and the interceptors can be quite long.

These pipes benefit from an occasional peek inside to see that everything is working well, and not at risk for a clog.

The Sanitary District has a portion of the

sewer main lines inspected every year on a rotating basis so that every few years, all of the pipes have been inspected.

There are several businesses out there that can use a camera to inspect the inside of your lateral or private interceptor which will alert to potential problems or give peace of mind if all is well.

This is one of those cases where an ounce of prevention is worth far more than a pound of cure.

Happiness runs in a circular motion... thought is like a little boat upon the sea. Everybody is a part of everything anyway, you can have everything if you let yourself be.

- DONOVAN

Year End Payments-

Sanitary District payments that are not received in our office by November 15th will have the full balance owed put on the corresponding property tax bill.

Treasurer's Treehouse

Property Taxes and the Pandemic -

Tax time is rushing towards us, and with the Covid-19 pandemic still affecting our daily lives, some changes have been made to the way property taxes can be paid.

In person property tax payments will not be available this year.

To limit the exposure of our staff and residents, the Town Board has decided to keep the office closed and allow payments to be made by mail or the drop box located at our front door.

If you would like a receipt for your payment please include a self addressed stamped envelope and we will mail it to you as soon as your payment is processed.

At the time of newsletter publication, Wisconsin Bank and Trust indicated they would be accepting payments this year by **drive thru and drop box only**. (please include a self addressed stamped envelope if requesting a receipt.)

As things change so rapidly, please watch our website for any changes to these guidelines. Payments can also be made by credit card, but please be aware there is a substantial processing fee charged by the pro-

Dog licensing -

Due to the Town of Wilson Office remaining closed, dog licenses can be requested through the mail or our drop box.

Licensing is required for dogs over 5 months old. Fees are \$7 for a spayed or neutered dog and \$14 for intact dogs.

Please include a copy of the current rabies certificate for each dog you are licensing along with your payment and a self addressed stamped envelope. We will mail you the license and tags.

Mail Any Payments to:

Treasurer

**5935 South Business Drive
Sheboygan, WI 53081**

All human beings are also dream beings. Dreaming ties all mankind together. -Jack Kerouac

Clerk's Corner

Vote Absentee

For federal elections, absentee ballots will be in the mail beginning 47 days before the election. For elections that do not include federal offices, absentee ballots will be in the mail beginning three weeks before Election Day. All absentee ballots are counted at the polls on Election Day.

The deadline to request an absentee ballot is 5:00 pm the Thursday before the election, but we recommend making your request as early as possible so there is adequate time to mail the ballot back to the Clerk's Office.

Absentee Ballot Drop-Off Sites

Voters wishing to return their absentee ballots in person may do so at the drop box located at our front door at 5935 S. Business Dr., Sheboygan.

Absentee Delivery by Mail

You may submit an absentee request at www.myvote.wi.gov (click on Vote Absentee at the top of the website), or you may send a written request that includes:

Name

Address to which the ballot should be mailed

Signature

Copy of voter ID, if not already on file in Clerk's Office

Send the request via email to jwicker@townwilson.com, or mail the request to:

**Town Clerk's Office
5935 S. Business Dr., Sheboygan, WI
53081**

Ballots will be mailed out through the Thursday before the election. Absentee ballots must be received in the Clerk's Office in time for delivery to the polls on Election Day.

Voting at the polls on election day is STILL ON.

Watch our website for any news or changes. www.townwilson.com

Walk-In-Person Absentee Procedure

1. If you have your own ballpoint pen to use, please alert the absentee clerk as you approach them at the walk-up absentee voting site. The absentee clerk will be wearing a badge and a face mask.
2. The absentee clerk will need to check your voter ID. You may hold your ID up to your window or place it in the bin for the absentee clerk to see.
3. The absentee clerk will give you an absentee envelope to fill out on.
4. Once you mark your ballot, you will seal it with tape in the absentee envelope.
5. You will sign your envelope in the presence of the absentee clerk. The absentee clerk will sign as your witness.
6. At the end of the walk-up voting shift for the day, your absentee will be brought to the Clerk's Office and placed in a locked box.
7. Your absentee will remain sealed in its envelope and secure in the Clerk's Office until it is delivered to your polling place to be processed on Election Day.
8. On Election Day, the poll workers at your polling place will check your envelope into the poll book and will feed your ballot into the tabulator to be counted.

EARLY IN-PERSON ABSENTEE VOTING HOURS

Tuesday– Thursday
October 20-22
9am – 3pm at the Town Hall
Monday-Thursday
October 26-29
9am – 3pm at the Town Hall



ELECTION DAY VOTING

**Voting at the polls on
Election Day is
STILL ON.**

**POLL HOURS:
TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3rd
2020
7 AM - 8 PM at the Town Hall**

Since you went away the days grow long. And soon I'll hear old winter's song, but I miss you most of all my darling when autumn leaves start to fall - Nat King Cole



Town of Wilson
 5935 South Business Drive
 Sheboygan, WI 53081

Newsletter

OFFICE HOURS:

8:00 AM - 4:30 PM Mon. - Thurs;

Phone **(920) 208-2390**; Fax (920) 208-2450

www.townwilson.com

SANITARY OFFICE HOURS:

Monday Afternoons *hours vary*

Tues. 10-3:30 PM (*closed Wednesdays*)

and Thursday 8:30 - 12:30PM;

Phone: **(920)694-0088**; Fax: (920) 452-0548

RECYCLE CENTER & TRANSFER STATION

4430 Meyer Court

Tues. 8 AM - 5 PM; Sat. 8 AM- 4 PM

EMERGENCY SANITARY

SEWER CONTACTS:

Otis Kiehl: **(920) 918-8723**

Steve Pautz: **(920) 946-2216**

Mike Klokow: **(920) 457-6727**

Tom Sanville: **(920) 457-6554**

Or Tom Sanville Cell : **(920)980-0262**

TOWN OF WILSON BOARD MEMBERS

Chairman John Ehmann.....**(920)254-9362** or chairman@townwilson.com

Supervisor Tom Stoelb..... **(920) 627-5647** or supervisorsorts@townwilson.com

Supervisor Brian Hoffmann**(920) 918-2010** or supervisorbh@townwilson.com

Supervisor Nancy Des Jardins....**(920) 457-1230** or supervisorndj@townwilson.com

Supervisor Matt Fore.....**(920) 212-0280** or supervisorfm@townwilson.com

TOWN OF WILSON STAFF

Julie Wicker, Clerk**(920) 208-2390** jwicker@townwilson.com

Kari Mooney, Treasurer.....**(920) 208-2390, Ext. 302** kmooney@townwilson.com

Karen Bollwahn, Sanitary District Administrator.....**(920) 694-0088**

kbollwahn@townwilson.com

Rick Meyer, Maintenance & Road Supervisor**(920) 980-0198**

maintenance@townwilson.com

Tom Rogers, Electrical Inspector**(920) 377-0074**

Grota Appraisals**(262) 253-1142**

Jack Vander Weele, Building Inspector**(920) 946-7844**

Scott Winter, Plumbing HVAC Inspector**(920) 207-2818**

TOWN OF WILSON FIRE DEPARTMENT

firedept@townwilson.com

Todd Hittmann, Chief**(920) 458-6763**

Steve Pautz, Assistant Chief**(920) 946-2216**

TOWN OF WILSON FIRST RESPONDERS

Dan Murphy, Service Director **(920) 838-3214**

Shelly Hittman, Co-Director **(920) 458-6763**

Newsletter Design and layout by K. Bollwahn